

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Application as examined included claims 1-91. Claims 1, 4, 9, 16, 24, 32, 39, 47 and 85-91 have been amended. Claims 5, 13, 20, 28, 37, 43 and 51 have been cancelled. Claims 2-3, 6-8, 10-12, 14-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33-36, 38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50 and 52-84 are unchanged.

Claims 1-56, 60-61, 65-66, 70-71, 75-76 and 80-81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann (U.S. 4,097,649). Claims 57-59, 62-64, 67-69, 72-74, 77-79 and 82-91 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann (U.S. 4,097,649) in view of Martin (U.S. 4,836,030). Claims 1-57, 60-62, 65-67, 70-72, 75-77, 80-82 and 85-91 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benson, et al. (U.S. 6,676,882).

Neumann describes methods for making resin-impregnated self-adhering or heat-sealable papers. Martin describes a method of testing composite materials for structural damage. Benson describes a method for full or partial infusion of resin into three-dimensional, woven textile preforms.

Applicant expresses his appreciation to Examiner Lawrence D. Ferguson and SPE Rena L. Dye for the courtesy of an interview, which was granted to Applicant's representative, Sanford T. Colb (Reg. No. 26,856). The interview was held in the USPTO on April 26, 2006. The substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary.

In the interview, the patentability of claim 1 was discussed vis-à-vis the prior art of record. The Interview Summary Record states, in relevant part, "It was agreed during the interview that the proposed amended claims were not met by the applied prior art of record with respect to a 'particle resin adhered to a textile substrate'".

and ‘wherein the resin has a uniformity of thickness having a variation of less than 5% of its average thickness.’

As proposed at the interview, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the method of the present invention to include the recitations “particle resin adhered to said textile substrate” and “said resin has a uniformity of thickness prior to pressing of said pre-impregnated material,” which distinguish over the prior art of record.

Support for the amendment is found, inter alia, in paragraph 38 of the application as filed.

Independent claims 4, 9, 16, 24, 32, 39, 47 and 85-91 have been similarly amended to include the recitations “particle resin adhered to said textile substrate” and “said resin has a uniformity of thickness prior to pressing of said pre-impregnated material.”

As discussed at the interview, none of the prior art, either alone or in combination, shows or suggests a pre-impregnated material including a textile substrate and particle resin adhered to the textile substrate, where the resin has a uniformity of thickness having a variation of less than 5% of its average thickness prior to pressing of said pre-impregnated material, as recited in amended claims 1, 4, 9, 16, 24, 32, 39, 47 and 85-91. Claims 1, 4, 9, 16, 24, 32, 39, 47 and 85-91 are therefore deemed to be allowable.

Claims 2-3, 8 and 55-59 depend directly or ultimately from claim 1 and recite additional patentable matter and are therefore deemed allowable. Claims 6-7 depend directly or ultimately from claim 4 and recite additional patentable matter and are therefore deemed allowable. Claims 10-12, 14-15 and 60-64 depend directly or ultimately from claim 9 and recite additional patentable matter and are therefore deemed allowable.

Claims 17-19, 21-23 and 65-69 depend directly or ultimately from claim 16 and recite additional patentable matter and are therefore deemed allowable. Claims 25-27, 29-31 and 70-74 depend directly or ultimately from claim 24 and recite additional patentable matter and are therefore deemed allowable.

Claims 32-36, 38 and 75-79 depend directly or ultimately from claim 32 and recite additional patentable matter and are therefore deemed allowable. Claims 40-

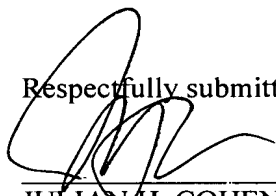
42, 44-46 and 80-84 depend directly or ultimately from claim 39 and recite additional patentable matter and are therefore deemed allowable. Claims 48-50 and 52-54 depend directly or ultimately from claim 47 and recite additional patentable matter and are therefore deemed allowable.

Claims 5, 13, 20, 28, 37, 43 and 51 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims as filed in the context of a continuation application.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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